

**NOTES ON SOME WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LEPIDOPTERA-
RHOPALOCERA WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUB-
SPECIES OF ANISYNTA ALBOVENATA**

By FRANK E. PARSONS

Plate 15

Rhopalocera have been collected in Western Australia during three car journeys extending from Geraldton in the north to Albany in the south, and to Norseman and Esperance in the eastern part of the State.

On the first visit, during October and November 1959, we found, between Norseman and Esperance, a series of a Hesperid, *Anisynta albore nata*, thus extending the range of the species from Gunnedah in New South Wales through South Australia to about 450 miles west of the Western Australian border. The Western Australian insect clearly is a new subspecies, and is described below.

The second visit was made between April 1961 and February 1962, and the third from October to the end of December of that year. I was accompanied on my first visit by Mr. F. M. Angel, who added series to his collection.

***Ialmenus inous* Hewitson 1865**

This butterfly appears to be confined chiefly to the coastal belt from Fremantle to Bunbury, and on the first two visits fair numbers were collected in the sandhills at Bunbury. On the third visit I found them extremely numerous about five miles north of Mandurah and in one day collected some 70 pupae in less than one hour. Approximately one-half of them were parasitised.

The larvae and pupae, attended by many small black ants, were found either on dead leaves or in the sand under leaning branches. The food plant is a sprawling bush of a species of *Acacia*.

I could find none before the first week of November, and by mid-December they had become scarce again.

***Hypochrysops halyaetus* Hewitson 1874**

A dozen of the adults were collected at Geraldton at the end of October 1959; they were not at all plentiful and considerable effort went into finding them.

On my second trip to Western Australia early in November I found a spot in the Chittering district a little more than 40 miles from Perth where they were present in considerable numbers. Four trips were made to the area during the following three weeks and over 160 specimens were collected, but I could find no indications as to the likely food plant. By the end of November their flights were over and on the last occasion none could be found.

On my third trip to Western Australia I visited the same spot in the Chittering district at the end of October 1963, but there was no sign of this butterfly. I visited the spot again on 7th November, when they were as plentiful as in the previous season and was able to catch a representative series. By the last week in November they had all disappeared. Evidently they have a very short flight season and should be sought during the first three weeks of November. They are very easy to net and appear only on the spike of small yellow flowers of *Ferreausia reinwardtii*, a plant not very widely distributed; it occurs chiefly on the gravelly ironstone soils of the Darling Range.

***Ogyris idmo idmo* Hewitson 1862**

During the first three weeks of November a few of the Western race of this rare species were flying in the same place as *Hypochrysops halyaetus*. I saw them settled only on flowers of the white *Pimelia* and collected two males and six females.

***Hesperilla donnysa albina* Waterhouse 1932**

Several pupae of this subspecies were collected from their shelters in sword grass at a swamp about three miles south of Fremantle, during early September, and several males were caught while settled on sword grass at Albany, during the first week in December.

***Anisynta albovenata fuscata* subsp. nov.**

Plate 15, fig. 5-8

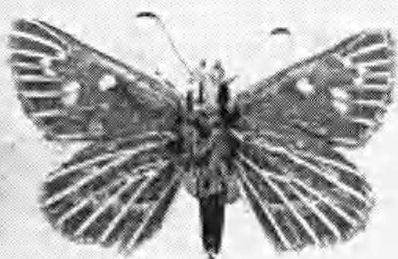
Male above, dark grey-brown. Fore-wing with a spot at end of cell, three subapical spots, two below these, nearer the termen in areas 4 and 5, spots in 2 and 3, and a very small and faint spot just above vein 1; the subapical spots and those in 4 and 5 are very small.



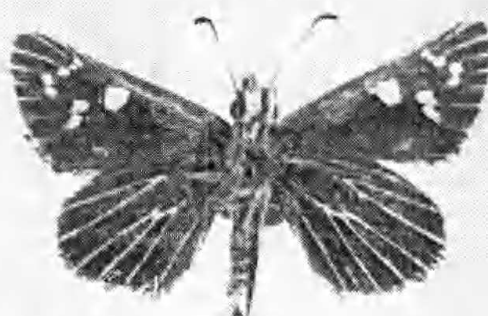
1



5



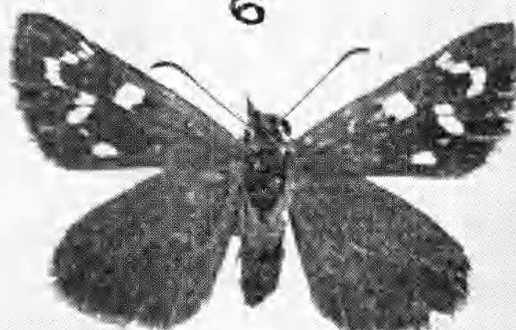
2



6



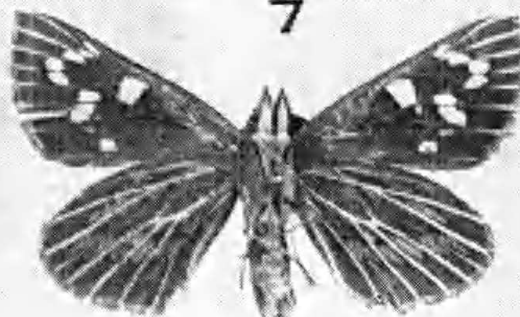
3



7



4



8

Underside of forewing dark grey-brown, the basal half a shade lighter than the outer half; the ends of the veins white, and the spots reproduced as on the upper side. All spots whitish, not yellow as in the subspecies *A. albovenata weemala*.

The male hindwing has no spots on upper or lower sides, but on the lower side all the veins are white from their bases to the termen.

Female above, dark grey-brown, with all the spots as in the male, but they appear more pronounced. Female underside, marked similarly to the male, but the spots again are more pronounced. Length of forewing, male 15.7 mm, female 18.0 mm.

This race is distinguished from the South Australian one by its more prominent markings, larger size, and the much darker colouring.

The average length of forewing in my specimens is:—male 15.6 mm, female 17.8 mm.

In a series of 25 examples of *A. a. albovenata* the average length of forewing is:—male 12.7 mm, female 15.1 mm.

The holotype male and allotype female bear the following data:—Male, Salmon Gums, W. Austr., 12 Oct. 1963. Female, Esperance, W. Austr., 14 Oct. 1959, and are deposited in the South Australian Museum Collection where they bear the number L19134. In addition there is a paratype series of 20 specimens in my own collection including the specimens figured to show their under sides. A series (nine paratype males and three females) taken by Mr. Frank Angel during our first visit, are in his collection.

I am indebted to Mr. J. O. Wilson for the accompanying plate and to Mr. Norman B. Tindale for his interest and advice.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 15

Fig. 1-4. *Anisguta a. albovenata* Waterhouse. 1. Male, Point Pearce, S. Aust. 11 Oct. 1942. 2. Male, underside, Ardrossan, S. Aust. 2 Oct. 1944. 3. Female, Point Pearce, 10 Oct. 1942. 4. Female, underside, Point Pearce, 11 Oct. 1942.

Fig. 5-8. *Anisguta a. fuscata* Parsons. 5. Holotype male, Salmon Gums, W. Aust. 12 Oct. 1963. 6. Paratype male, underside, same data as holotype. 7. Allotype female, Esperance, W. Aust. 14 Oct. 1959. 8. Paratype female, underside, same data as allotype.